

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-04 EUR-12 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 AID-05 NIC-01 MC-01 /081 W

----- 037642

R 261240Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1025

INFO DIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PGOF PFOR EG

SUBJECT: DEATH OF MINWAY AHMAD ISMA'IL 'ALI

1. DEATH IN LONDON OF FIELD MARSHAL AHMAD ISMAL'IL
'ALI, DEP PRIMIN AND MINWAY, IS REPORTED BY CAIRO
PRESS AS HAVING OCCURRED EARLY DEC 25 OFPNEUMONIA,
WHICH CAUSED CLOT IN LUNG. PAPERS NOTE HE HAD BEEN
UNDER TREATMENT FOR CANCER. PRESS COVERAGE IS HEAVY,
STRESSING MARSHAL'S ROLE AS COMMANDER DURING SUEZ
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CANAL CROSSING LAST OCTOBER. MILITARY FUNERAL IS

SCHEDULED FOR CAIRO AFTERNOON DEC 27; ARAB MINISTERS OF DEFENSE AND CHIEFS OF STAFFS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND. CHIEFS OF MISSION AND DAO'S ALSO EXPECTED TO ATTEND MOSQUE SERVICE TOMORROW.

2. COMMENT: MARSHAL'S TERMINAL ILLNESS WAS OPEN SECRET IN CAIRO, ALTHOUGH MILITARY CENSORS HAD PROHIBITED ANY REPORTING EVEN OF HIS PRESENCE IN LONDON UNTIL FEW DAYS AGO. SADAT HAS HAD WEEKS TO DETERMINE MARSHAL'S SUCCESSOR AND C/S GAMASY WOULD APPEAR TO BE FRONT RUNNER. HOWEVER, WHOMEVER SADAT MAY CHOOSE, CHANGE-OVER SHOULD BE SMOOTH AND DEVOID OF DOMESTIC POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS.

3. AS DEPT IS AWARE, GAMASY, LIKE THE MARSHAL, HAS BEEN THROUGHOUT POST-OCTOBER WAR PERIOD PERSONALLY CONCERNED ABOUT INCREASINGLY SERIOUS EFFECT ON ARMED FORCES MORALE AND CAPABILITY CAUSED BY INTERRUPTION SOVIET ARMS AND SPARE PARTS DELIVERIES AND CONTINUING INABILITY FIND SUBSTITUTE SOURCE OF SUPPLY. SHOULD BE CHOSEN TO HEAD MINISTRY OF WAR, WE WOULD EXPECT HIM TO CONTINUE EXPRESS HIS CONCERN TO HIGHEST GOE LEVELS ON THIS SUBJECT. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, GAMASY IS POPULAR WITH HIS TROOPS, AND, IN VIEW OF DATT, A COMPETENT MILITARY ADMINISTRATOR AND COMMANDER. HE IS ALSO FRIENDLY TOWARD US AND, DESPITE HIS URGING THAT SOVIETS ARMS SUPPLIES BE GOTTEN, GENUINELY WANTS CLOSER RELATIONS WITH US.
EILTS

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30 JUN 2005

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